

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

EUR-25 RSR-01 /083 W

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O 281220 Z APR 73 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6519

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1387

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: PRESS HANDLING ARMS SALES TO KUWAIT

1. F8 DEMONSTRATION TEAM ARRIVED KU EVENING APRIL 29 AND INCLUDES 35 MILITARY PERSONNEL, 2 F8 AIRCRAFT, 2 KA3 TANKERS, AND 1 C-130. PRESENCE US MILITARY MISSION IN KUWAIT HAS THUS FAR ESCAPED PUBLIC NOTICE. ARRIVAL OF DEMONSTRATION TEAM WITH TOW DEMONSTRATION TEAM TO FOLLOW ON MAY 2 IS UNLIKELY ESCAPE PUBLIC NOTICE AND POSSIBLE PRESS ATTENTION PARTICULARLY SINCE KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ALSO MILITARY AIRPORT AND US AIRCRAFT WILL LAND THERE.

2. POST, IN KEEPING WITH INSTRUCTIONS DOES NOT PLAN TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ON ABOVE NOTED ACTIVITIES AND BELIEVES GOK WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN SAME POSTURE. HOWEVER, WITH INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF STORY BREAKING UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE WE WOULD PLAN IF PRESSED, MERELY TO STATE THAT DEMONSTRATION TEAM(S) HERE AT THE REQUEST OF GOK TO SHOW OPERATION OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN WHICH GOK IS INTERESTED. WE WOULD REFUSE ALL FURTHER COMMENT, BUT BELIEVE PURELY DEMONSTRATION
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ROLE OF TEAM AND GOK POSSIBLE PURCHASE ARE BOTH

TRUE AND ESSENTIAL FACTS TO KEEP EXAGGERATED AND
UNHELPFUL STORIES FROM DEVELOPING.

3. RECOMMEND WASHINGTON AGENCIES HANDLE STORY IN
SAME MANNER. MEANWHILE WE SHALL INFORM GOK WE
INTENT TAKE THIS LINE AND SUGGEST THEY DO SO ALSO
STOLTZFUS

OBJECTIVE IS TO SHIFT THE GREATER PART OF NORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE
FUNCTIONS TO PROVINCE AND DISTRICT LEVELS. IN HIS VIEW
AT LEAST SEVENTYPERCENT OF SUCH FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED
ON AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. TODAY JUST THE REVERSE IS TRUE. " THE
HEAD IT TOO BIG AND THE FEET TOO SMALL." THIS RESULTS IN
CUMBERSOME AND SLOW ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WHICH IN
TURN CREAT DISAFFECTION AMONG THE PEOPLE AND OPPORTUNITITES
FOR CORRUPTION.

5. REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET. BY SHIFTING ADMINISTRATION
TO THE PROVINCE AND DISTRICT LEVEL, THIEU BELIEVES THAT HE
CAN REDUCE SUBSTANILLY THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVICE
EMPLOYEES. HE ALSO ESTIMATES THAT MILITARY FORCES CAN
BE REDUCED BY 100,000 THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF " BAD
ELEMENTS" WITHOUT IMPAIRING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.
BUNKER

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

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